

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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the steps of:

1. A method of delivering information to a requesting user, said method comprising
recording a request from a user pertaining to information content desired by said user;
accessing said recorded request by any information provider; and
determining by said accessing information provider whether or not the information
said accessing provider has control of matches the information content requested by said user.
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein said accessing information supplier accesses said
information via the Internet.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said accessing information supplier accesses said
information via a connection from said provider directly to said user.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said recording step includes providing information
by the user controlling the accessing of such requests by third parties.
5. The method of claim 1 further including the step of:
under at least partial control of said determining step delivering the information
desired by said user.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said delivering step includes the step of:
interacting between said accessing provider and said user as to the nature of the
information to be delivered.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said interacting is selected from the list including: time of delivery, media for delivery, content of delivery, location for delivery, follow up after delivery, payment information, respective obligation requirements, comparing access permissions.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein said interacting step can occur in a media different from the media under which said information is delivered.
9. The method of claim 5 wherein said delivering step includes the step of: making adjustments for one or more factors selected from the list including time, location, media.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein said adjustment is made based on the context of the desired information.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein said adjustment is made based on the location of the user.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein said information to be delivered is entertainment media.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein said information is recorded local to said user and from time to time transmitted to a remote location.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said information is recorded locally and accessible from time to time from remote locations by said accessing providers.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said information is recorded locally and sent to one or more remote locations for accessing by said accessing providers.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein said information is initially recorded at a location remote from said user.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said recorded information is available for accessing by said accessing providers at one or more locations remote from said user.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the information desired by said user is not currently available.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the information desired pertains to future events not scheduled at the time said request is recorded.

20. The system of delivering information to a requesting user, said system comprising:

means for recording a request from a user pertaining to information content desired by said user;

5 means for accessing said recorded request by any information provider; and

means for determining by said accessing information provider whether or not the information said accessing provider has control of matches the information content requested by said user.

21. The system of claim 20 further including:

means operable under at least partial control of said determining means for delivering the information desired by said user.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said delivering means includes:

means for interacting between said accessing provider and said user for determining the nature of the information to be delivered.

23. The system of claim 21 wherein said delivering means includes:

means for making adjustments for factors selected from the list including time, location, media.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said adjustment is made based on the context of the desired information.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein said adjustment is made based on the location of the user.

26. The system of claim 20 wherein said accessing means includes:

means for matching a permission level of a recorded request against a permission level of an accessing party.

27. A method for allowing a TV user to receive programs desired by that user, said method comprising the steps of:

accepting from said user information pertaining to a program desired to be viewed by said user;

5 matching said accepted information against a list of known programs currently scheduled to be delivered;

informing the user as to when said programs will be delivered; and

allowing the viewer to receive said programs at the informed time.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein said information is selected from the list including future programs, past programs, past events, program concepts, biographies, actors, travelogues, subject matter, movies, concerts, performers, time frames, sitcoms, sports, affinity programs, historical figures, news events.

29. The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of:

upon a non-match condition making said user request available to at least one content provider.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:

delivering programs to said user from said content provider which match said accepted descriptive material.

31. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:

interacting between said at least one content provider and said user to deliver content containing said descriptive material to said user.

32. The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of:

upon a non-match condition continuing to match said accepted material against future lists of programs scheduled to be delivered.

33. The method of claim 27 wherein said descriptive material is selected from the list including future programs, past programs, past events, program concepts, biographies, actors, travelogues, subject matter, movies, concerts, performers, time frames, sitcoms, sports, affinity programs, historical figures, news events.

34. The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of:

enabling a recorder at said user's location to record said programs when matched ones of said programs are delivered.

35. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

adjusting the timing of the recording in accordance with the location of the user.

36. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

adjusting the recording time at said user's location in accordance with information concerning the actual transmission times of programs being recorded.

37. The method of claim 27 wherein said matching step includes the step of: comparing a provider's identity against a permission level set by said TV user.

38. A system for delivering entertainment programs to a user, said system comprising:

means for allowing said user to input and store desired programs;

means operative from time to time for accessing stored ones of said desired programs;

means for determining which, if any, of said stored desired programs are currently available to said user; and

means controlled in part by said accessing means for delivering to said user one or more of said stored desired programs which were determined not to have been currently available to said user, after said programs are determined to be available.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein said delivering means includes means for:

allowing at least one program provider to review said stored list to determine if said program provider can deliver to said user one or more of said desired stored programs.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein said allowing means is further operative to allow one or more program providers to review said stored list for periods of time.

41. The system of claim 39 wherein said accessing means is at a first location and said program provider is at a second location remote from said accessing means.

42. The system of claim 38 wherein said programs are selected from the list including future programs, past programs, past events, program concepts, biographies, actors, travelogues, subject matter, movies, concerts, performers, time frames, sitcoms, sports, affinity programs, historical figures, news events.

43. The system of claim 38 further including:

means for controlling recording times of delivered ones of said desired programs in accordance with the actual delivered time of such program at a user's location.

44. The system for providing information to a user, said information available over a network, said system comprising:

means for allowing said user to input and store an abstract of the desired information;

means operative from time to time for allowing any party other than said user to have access to said abstract of said desired information; and

means for allowing those of said other parties having information fulfilling said abstracted information to deliver to said user said fulfilling information.

45. The system of claim 44 wherein said fulfilling information was not available at the time said user stored said abstract of said desired information.

46. The system of claim 44 wherein said delivery allowing means includes means for interacting between the user and said accessing parties to determine one or more of the following, scope of the information content to deliver, time of delivery, mode of delivery, location of delivery, cost of the information, respective liabilities of the parties with respect to the delivered information, limitations on the use of said delivered information.

47. The system of claim 44 wherein said allowing means includes flagging certain data at said user's location.

48. The system of claim 44 wherein said allowing means includes storing said inputted abstracted desired information at at least one site remote from said user.

49. The system of claim 44 wherein said delivering means includes means for modifying the information in accordance with the user's location.

50. The system of claim 44 wherein said delivering means includes means for delivering the information in a media context consistent with the user's ability to receive the information at the time of delivery.

51. The system of claim 44 wherein said system allowing means includes means for controlling which set of parties may access said desired information.

52. The method of delivering information from any of a plurality of information sources to an information seeker wherein each said information seeker has caused to be remembered abstracts of information being sought by said information seeker, said method comprising the steps of:

5 searching from time to time by said information sources a plurality of said information seekers to determine whether information available to at least one of said sources matches the abstracts of sought information; and

 notifying said information seeker that at least one match has been found.

53. The method of delivering information as set forth in claim 52 wherein said remembered information is searchable by said information sources for a period of time.

54. The method of delivering information as set forth in claim 53 wherein said information is communicated as a result of an interactive exchange between said source and said seeker.

55. The method of delivering information as set forth in claim 52 wherein the information is communicated from a third party to said information seeker under at least partial control of said information source.

56. The method of delivering information as set forth in claim 55 wherein said information is communicated as a result of an interactive exchange between said third party and said seeker.

57. The method of delivering information as set forth in claim 52 wherein the information is communicated to a location designated by said information seeker.

58. The method of delivering information as set forth in claim 52 further comprising the steps of:

communicating from said information source to said information seeker the location to where said sought information is to be found.

59. The method of delivering information as set forth in claim 58 further comprising the steps of:

downloading said sought information under control of said information seeker using said communicated information from said information source.

60. The method of claim 52 wherein said searching step includes the step of:

matching permission levels between said information seekers and said information sources.

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